



# Southeast Fishery Bulletin

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## KING MACKEREL COMMERCIAL FISHERY CLOSED IN WESTERN GULF FROM U.S./MEXICO BORDER TO ALABAMA/FLORIDA BOUNDARY

The commercial fishery for Gulf group king mackerel in the western zone is closed, **effective 12:00 noon (local time) October 25, 2002**, through June 30, 2003. NOAA Fisheries projected that the western zone commercial quota of 1.01 million pounds of king mackerel for the 2002/2003 fishing year would be reached on October 24, 2002. With this action, the king mackerel commercial fishery in the Gulf of Mexico is closed from the U.S./Mexico border to the Alabama/Florida boundary (see reverse). This closure time should allow ample time for vessels to return safely to the docks.

Closure of the commercial king mackerel fishery in the western Gulf complies with regulations implemented under the Fishery Management Plan for Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources of the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic (FMP) and is necessary to protect the Gulf group king mackerel resource. In cooperative actions, Gulf states (Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama) are expected to close commercial harvest of king mackerel concurrently in adjoining state waters.

Except for a person aboard a charter vessel or headboat, during the closure, no person aboard a vessel for which a commercial permit for king mackerel has been issued may fish for Gulf group king mackerel in Federal waters in the closed zone or subzone. A person aboard a vessel that has a valid charter vessel/headboat permit for coastal migratory pelagic fish may continue to retain king mackerel in or from the closed zone/subzone under the 2-fish daily bag limit, provided the vessel is operating as a charter vessel or headboat. Charter vessels or headboats that hold a commercial king mackerel permit are considered to be operating as a charter vessel or headboat when they carry a passenger who pays a fee or when more than three persons are aboard, including operator and crew.

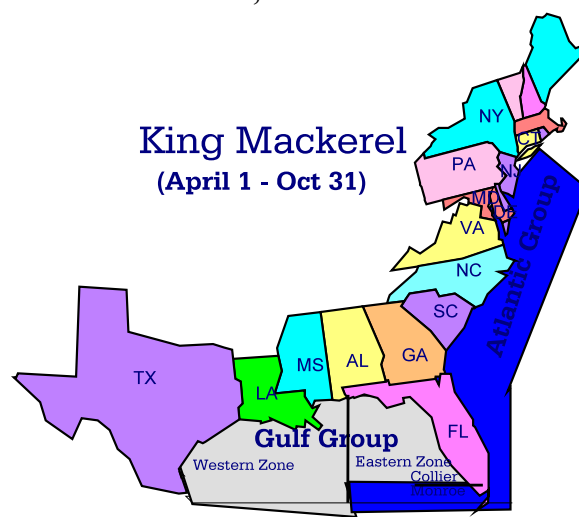
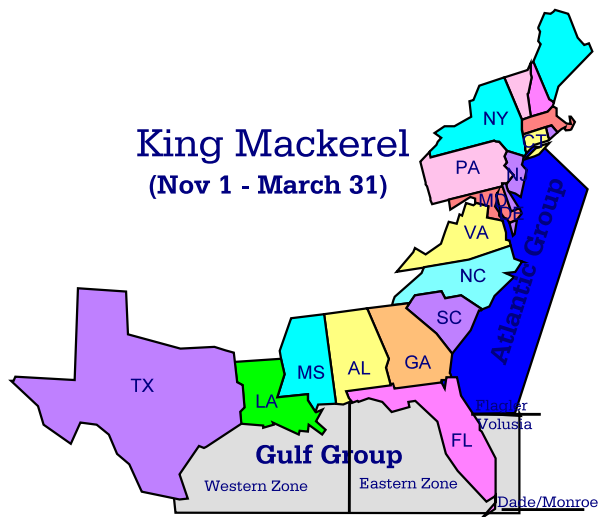
During the closure no king mackerel caught in the closed zone/subzone may be purchased, bartered, traded, or sold. This prohibition of sale does not apply to trade in king mackerel that were harvested, landed ashore and bartered, traded, or sold before the closure and held in cold storage by a dealer or processor.

Quotas and closure provisions for mackerel fisheries were developed in the FMP jointly by the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic Fishery Management Councils. In compliance with the FMP, an annual commercial quota of 3.26 million pounds was established for Gulf group king mackerel. This quota was divided into commercial quotas of 1.01 million pounds for the western zone and 2.25 million pounds for the eastern zone off Florida. Regulations implemented under the FMP require closure of any segment of the commercial fishery when its quota is reached or is projected to be reached.

To report violations of commercial trip limits or closures, contact NMFS Law Enforcement Division at **727/570-5344 or 1-800/853-1964**. To obtain considerable recorded information about our missions, services, and management measures, call our toll free public service line at 1-866-570-5301. If the information you need is not available on that line, you can leave us a message and we'll get back to you within one business day. NMFS is an agency of the Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Additional information on southeastern fisheries may be found on the Web sites of the Gulf of Mexico (<http://www.gulfcouncil.org>) or South Atlantic (<http://www.safmc.nmfs.gov>) Fishery Management Council; they may be contacted by e-mail at [gulf.council@noaa.gov](mailto:gulf.council@noaa.gov), or [safmc@noaa.gov](mailto:safmc@noaa.gov) respectively

## GULF GROUP KING MACKEREL: WESTERN AND EASTERN ZONES, SEASONAL BOUNDARIES



## GULF GROUP KING MACKEREL: STATUS OF QUOTAS AND DAILY TRIP/LANDING LIMITS FOR COMMERCIAL FISHERIES FOR THE 2002/2003 FISHING YEAR

ZONE/SUBZONE	QUOTA (POUNDS, b)	DAILY VESSEL TRIP LIMITS	DURATION OF TRIP LIMITS			STATUS	
						BEGINNING	CURRENT
EASTERN ZONE (Florida)	2,250,000						
East Coast Subzone <sup>1</sup>	1,040,625	50 Fish 75 Fish <sup>2</sup>	Nov 1 Feb 1	until until	780,469 lb 1,040,625	Opens: 11/01/2002	<b>Closed: 04/01/02</b>
West Coast Subzones	1,209,375						
<u>Northern</u>							
Hook and Line	168,750	1,250 lb 500 lb	Jul 1 126,563	until until	168,750 lb 168,750 lb	Opened: 07/01/2002	<b>Open: 1,250 lb/day</b>
<u>Southern</u>							
Hook and Line	520,312	1,250 lb 500 lb	Jul 1 390,234	until until	390,234 lb 520,312 lb	Opened: 07/01/2002	<b>Open: 1,250 lb/day</b>
Gillnet	520,312	25,000 lb	Jan 21 '03	until	520,312 lb	Opens: 01/21/2003 <sup>3</sup>	<b>Closed: 01/28/02</b>
WESTERN ZONE (Texas - Alabama)	1,010,000	3,000 lb 0 lb	Jul 1 Nov 19	until until	1,010,000 lb Jul 1'02	Opened: 07/01/2002	<b>Closed: 10/25/02</b>
Hook and Line							

<sup>1</sup> The Florida east coast subzone, located between the Flagler/Volusia and Miami-Dade/Monroe County boundaries, exists only from November 1 through March 31, when the Gulf migratory group of king mackerel extends into that area. From April 1 through October 31, king mackerel landed in that area belong to the Atlantic migratory group.

<sup>2</sup> Trip limit would increase from 50 to 75 fish/day on February 1, 2003, if less than 75 percent or 780,469 pounds of the Florida east coast subzone quota is harvested prior to February 1, 2003.

<sup>3</sup> Fishery is closed through 6:00 a.m., January 21, 2003.